GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1285
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON PRISONERS
Deora Shri Milind Murli

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Judicial Commission was constituted by India and Pakistan in early 2007 to release civilian prisoners of both the countries as reported in "Asian Age" dated June 15, 2007;

(b) the number of times the Commission met since its formation;

(c) the details of the meetings held so far;

(d) whether the commission has visited the jails in India and Pakistan to see the conditions of the prisoners languishing in the jails of both the countries; and

(e) if so, the number of prisoners lodged in jails of both the countries alongwith the time by when they are likely to be released?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SMT. V. RADHIKA SELVI)

(a) to (e): Ministry of External Affairs have informed that during the visit of External Affairs Minister to Pakistan on 13-14 January, 2007, both sides agreed to establish a committee on prisoners comprising retired judges of the superior judiciary to visit jails in the two countries and propose steps to ensure humane treatment and expedite release of prisoners who have completed their prison terms. During the Foreign Secretary talks on 13-14 March 2007, the two sides agreed that the Committee on Prisoners will be comprised of four judges from each side to ensure humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners on both sides. During the Home Secretary level talks in New Delhi on 3-4 July 2007, both sides agreed that the recently formed Committee on Prisoners comprising eminent retired judges from the two countries is a useful instrument to facilitate release and repatriation of prisoners who have served their prison sentences. It was agreed that action would be initiated to hold two meetings, one in India and the other in Pakistan, within a period of three months.